

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KINSHA 03568 161243Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-07 USIE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00
INRE-00 A-01 OPR-02 DHA-02 MCT-01 TRSE-00 SY-05
/103 W

-----161255Z 110301 /40

O P 161155Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3048
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL KINSHASA 3568

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, CG, FR, BE
SUBJ: SHABA INVASION: CONSULTATIONS WITH BELGIANS AND FRENCH

1. DURING MEETING APRIL 15 WITH BELGIAN AND FRENCH
AMBASSADORS, THE FOLLOWING POINTS OF INTEREST EMERGED:

2. BOTH BELIEVED THAT MILITARY SITUATION IN SHABA HAD BEEN GREATLY
IMPROVED BY ARRIVAL OF MOROCCAN FORCES. SPECIFICALLY, KOLWEZI--
WHICH THEY BELIEVED WOULD HAVE FALLEN IN A MATTER OF DAYS -- COULD
NOW BE CONSIDERED REASONABLY SECURE. ON THE OTHER HAND, BOTH HAD SOME
CONCERNS ABOUT LONGER-TERM MILITARY PROSPECTS. WHEREAS BEFORE THEY
HAD BEEN INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT KATANGANS WOULD FADE INTO THE
BUSH OR ACROSS THE BORDER ONCE THE MOROCCANS AND FAZ COUNTER-
ATTACKED, RECENT INFORMATION MADE THEM WONDER WHETHER KATANGANS
MIGHT IN FACT STAND AND FIGHT. THEY CITED AS EVIDENCE REPORTS
THAT SUPPLIES WERE BEING SHIPPED ALONG THE RAILROAD FROM DILOLO
TO MUTSHATSHA. ALSO, BELGIAN HAD JUST RECEIVED REPORT OF MAJOR
KATANGAN AMBUSH OF FAZ FORCES APRIL 14 NORTH OF KANZENZE, WITH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KINSHA 03568 161243Z

SOME FORTY FAZ CASUALTIES. GENERAL SINGA HAD REQUESTED
IMMEDIATE HELP FROM MOROCCANS, WHO AT FIRST SAID THEY WERE NOT
YET FULLY EQUIPPED FOR SUCH OPERATION. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF
URGENCY OF SITUATION, 300 MOROCCANS WERE TO BE DISPATCHED TO KAZENZE
AREA APRIL 15. BELGIAN WAS CONCERNED BECAUSE THIS REFLECTED
(A) KATANGANS' INCLINATION TO TAKE OFFENSIVE ACTION EVEN
AFTER MOROCCANS' ARRIVAL AND (B) CONTINUED INEFFECTIVENESS

OF FAZ.

3. WE ALL AGREED THAT EARLY DEFEAT FOR MOROCCANS WOULD BE SERIOUS PSYCHOLOGICAL BLOW, PARTICULARLY FOR FAZ. FRENCH AMBASSADOR SAID SUCH DEFEAT WOULD HAVE PARTICULARLY NEGATIVE IMPACT ON FRENCH PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR GOF'S INVOLVEMENT, AS WOULD ANY REPORTS OF MOROCCAN/FAZ ABUSE OF CIVILIAN POPULATION DURING THE COURSE OF COUNTER-OFFENSIVE. ANOTHER REFLECTION OF BELGIAN AND FRENCH UNCERTAINTY RE MILITARY SITUATION IS FACT THAT THEY WILL BE RETAINING AIRCRAFT AT KIGALI AND LIBREVILLE, RESPECTIVELY, AS CONTINGENCY FOR EVACUATING CIVILIANS FROM KOLWEZI.

4. MY BELGIAN AND FRENCH COLLEAGUES STRONGLY AGREED THAT NEGOTIATIONS WOULD HAVE TO TAKE PLACE AT SOME POINT AND NIGERIAN CHANNEL MUST, THEREFORE, BE KEPT ALIVE. FRENCH AMBASSADOR SAID HE HAD DAY BEFORE MADE THIS POINT FORCEFULLY TO NGUZA, ALONG WITH STRESS ON NEED TO AVOID ANY ACTIONS ALONG BORDER THAT WOULD PROVOKE INTERVENTION BY ANGOLANS AND CUBANS, THEREBY RISKING ESCALATION AND REDUCING CHANCES FOR EARLY PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. WE ALL AGREED THAT, IN VIEW OF RISK THAT FAZ MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO KEEP ON GOING ACROSS ANGOLAN BORDER IN HOT PURSUIT, IT WAS IMPORTANT TO PUSH FOR MEDIATION NEGOTIATIONS DURING THE COURSE OF ANTICIPATED COUNTER-OFFENSIVE RATHER THAN WAITING UNTIL IT IS COMPLETED. WHILE WE AGREED THAT SOME FAZ MILITARY SUCCESS WAS PROBABLY NECESSARY TO SET STAGE FOR

SUCCESSFUL TALKS, WE ALSO AGREED IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO CONVINCE MOBUTU TO TAKE ANY SIGNIFICANT NEGOTIATING INITIATIVES
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KINSHA 03568 161243Z

UNTIL EVERY EFFORT HAD BEEN MADE TO THOROUGHLY ROUT THE KATANGANS.
CUTLER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, AMBASSADORS MEETINGS, COMBAT OPERATIONS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KINSHA03568
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770133-0236
Format: TEL
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770450/aaaabrgd.tel
Line Count: 100
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3de7cba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2787405
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SHABA INVASION: CONSULTATIONS WITH BELGIANS AND FRENCH
TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, CG, FR, BE, US, NI
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3de7cba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009